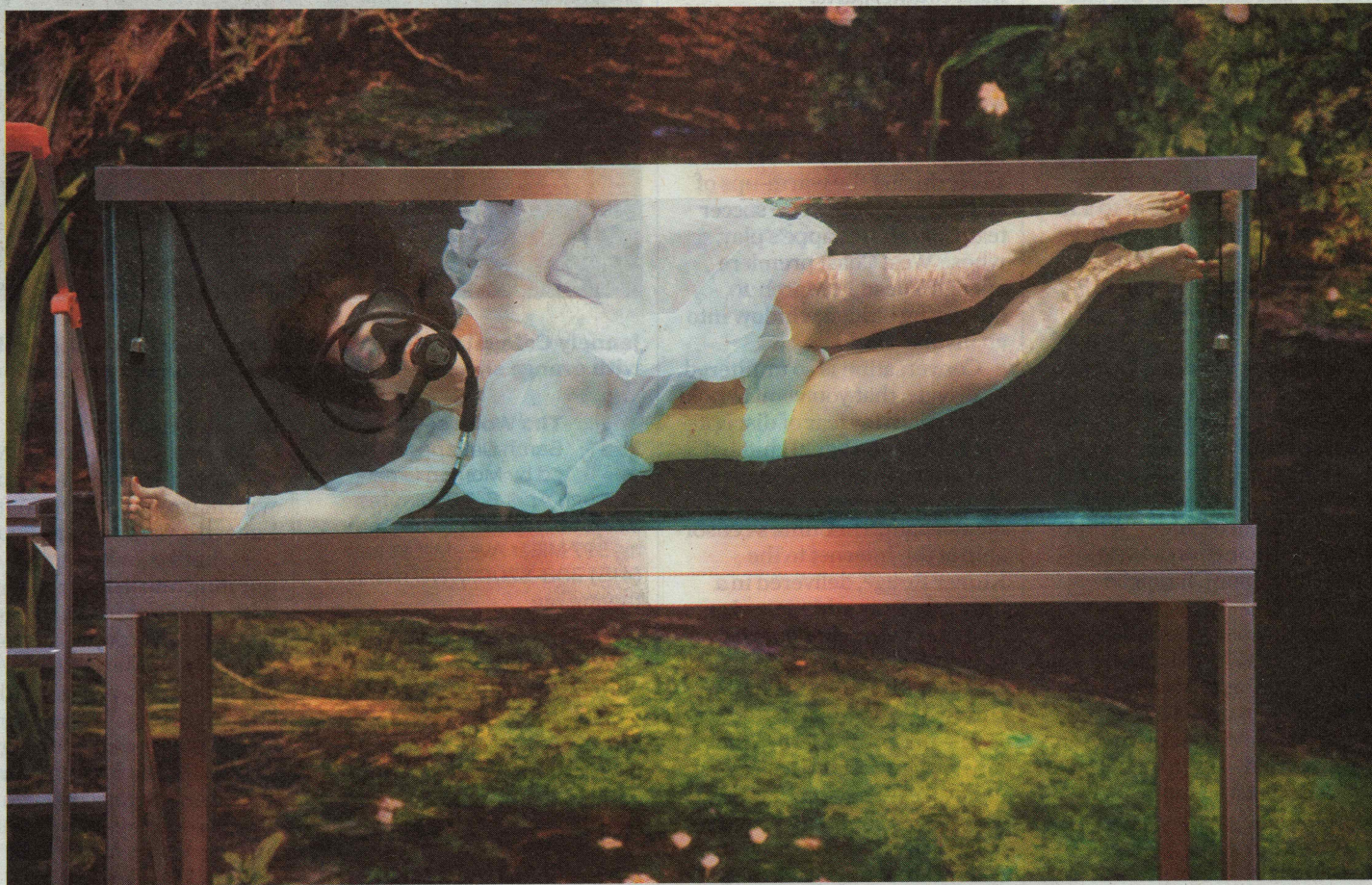


Installation reincarnates the drowning Ophelia



AKArt

Ophelia is back — or maybe she never left us.

Melancholy victim of love in Shakespeare's "Hamlet," Ophelia has been the inspiration for uncounted romantic paintings in the 400 years since her first appearance onstage. Now she is the subject of a new work of performance art by Nadja Verena Marcin, documented on video and presented as an installation at Minnesota Street Project through March 31.

To make the work, the artist submerged herself in a tank of salt water, speaking through a breathing apparatus, before a background recalling John Everett Millais' famous "Ophelia," a painting he made in 1851-52.

"Ophelia: Rebel Meme to Systems of Power and Oppression" is the weighty title of a panel discussion that unpacks the work's references. Participating are the artist; Dena Beard, executive director of the Lab; and Dorka Keehn, a San Francisco arts commissioner and promoter of public art.

"Ophelia: Rebel Meme to Systems of Power and Oppression": 6 p.m. Thursday, March 22. Free (reservations advised). Minnesota Street Project, 1275 Minnesota St., S.F. (646) 580-6626. www.akart.com/ophelia

— Charles Desmarais